

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
March 26, 2007

PRESENT: Longley-Cook, Cooney, Hakanson, Chair Lord-Hausman, and Kirola

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Berger, Bunker, Fort, Vice-Chair Moore

GUESTS: Mary Louise Lambert, Barry Bergman (Alameda Public Works)

MINUTES: The minutes of February 26, 2007 were approved as submitted.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Audible Traffic Signal Project:**

Chair Lord-Hausman read a letter from Trung Nguyen Assistant Engineer, Alameda Public Works requesting a training session for the new Countdown Pedestrian Head and Audible Pedestrian Signals at 25 intersections. Chair Lord-Hausman then read her response supporting the instructional training and agreeing to agendize a regular meeting of the Commission to include the training. The proposed new signals will not include tactile plates because of funding constraints. Commissioner Cooney suggested that Linda Myers would be a good source for information regarding tactile signals. Mary Louise Lambert was requested to send a letter to the Commission suggesting intersections that would be candidates for tactile signals.

2. **Paratransit Program Annual Submittal:**

Mr. Barry Bergman gave an overview of last year's paratransit funding from measure B and discussed ideas for expanding the program. The existing program includes purchasing of East Bay Paratransit coupons, providing taxi trips for riders to return home from medical facilities, providing service to areas not served by East Bay Paratransit, offering group trips through the Mastick Senior Center, and providing transit scholarships for the poor. The expanded program would include opening up the taxi program to all seniors age 75 and older, and those 70 and up without a driver's license. Mr. Bergman then requested any suggestions for new program ideas and for providing additional outreach. The Commission suggested the following: College of Alameda, the Commission's booth at the Concerts at the Cove, Alameda Hospital Health Fare, Regional Center, Special Olympics, East Bay Innovations, City web site, World Institute on Disability (WID) and AP&T. Chair Lord-Hausman requested that any additional suggestions be sent to her.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Commissioner Duties: (Chair Lord-Hausman)

Chair Lord-Hausman requested volunteers to monitor other City Boards and Committees. Commissioner Longly-Cook volunteered to monitor the Transportation Commission and Chair Lord-Hausman volunteered to monitor the Planning Board. Commissioner Cooney will review the Agenda of the City Council meetings to see if there are any issues that would interest the Commission.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

4. Acting Secretary showed a model of the intersection of Webster Street and Atlantic Avenue. The Commission requested additional information about the planned changes to the intersection. Commissioner Cooney requested that similar models be made of other intersections.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Commissioner Longley–Cook informed the Commission of the Arthritis Expo at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame on September 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2. Commissioner Cooney suggested that planning begin for the Disability Awareness Month in October.
3. Mary Louise Lambert suggested that special Religious Education (SPRED) be contacted for possible new Commissioners.
4. Chair Lord-Hausman informed the Commission that the League of Woman Voters would be holding its Meet Your Public Officials event on April 26 and all Commissioners should be receiving invitations.
5. Chair Lord –Hausman suggested that Mike Corbett from Harsh Management be invited to the April meeting to discuss the improvements to the Towne Centre. Commissioner Cooney would like to review the model of the Centre.
6. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the Market Place parking lot on Buena Vista Avenue has 26 spaces, none of which are marked for the disabled. Parking near the Alameda Marina appears to have insufficient disabled parking spaces. The new parking spaces at Alameda High, Walnut Street entrance, are poorly marked.
7. Chair Lord-Hausman presented information about the standard Taxi that can accommodate wheelchairs and scooters.

8. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested that there should be Disability Friendly Business Awards.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 23, 2007 in Room 360 at City Hall.

Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

Robert Claire
Associate Civil Engineer

RC:lc